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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Agricultural Situation in a Bohemian Village	DATE DISTR.	9 August 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

1. The collective farm (JZD) at an unspecified village in Bohemia consists of 18 members. There are still 28 independent smallholders in the village. In 1951, when the JZD completed the collectivization of land, approximately 100 hectares of poor land which the JZD did not want were given to the MNV (Local National Committee) to dispose of.
2. The MNV decided to force independent smallholders to work this land, in addition to their own, for three years at a time. Each smallholder was allotted from three to six hectares which he was to work under penalty of losing what small privileges were still available to independent farmers, for example, killing one pig per annum for his own use. The smallholders obeyed but worked inefficiently. One smallholder notified the MNV after two years that he did not wish to work the land any further as he was old and short of help. The MNV objected and hauled him into court, where he was sentenced to a month's imprisonment. On his release, he was not made to work the land any more and it lay fallow for all of 1954.
3. After the first three-year contracts expired in autumn 1954 the MNV tried to renew them for a further three years, but all the smallholders now refused. The land is now lying fallow and the MNV is threatening to take all the smallholders to court. The smallholders, however, remain adamant. A similar situation exists in other villages in this district. As a result of one like situation 150 hectares of land are lying fallow.
4. Situation at the JZD: The bad feeling which previously existed between JZD and independent smallholders has now disappeared, and JZD members are no longer trying to force the latter to join them. Members of the JZD are known as "badgers" (jezevci), as they are never seen in the fields. Most JZD members are critical of their leaders but do not leave the JZD, as they would have to begin again from scratch without implements. Another deterrent is the fact that any member leaving the JZD has to take over some of its debts and work them off as best he can. JZD land is in very poor condition and the yield is 50 percent lower than that of smallholders' land. The JZD are short of manure and fertilizers, and what they have they use in an uneconomical manner. Potatoes from last autumn's crop

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were inedible owing to the excessive use of a chemical against Colorado beetles. JZD implements are not properly cared for and are left out in the open. A single man, a former "kulak", maintains them and cannot cope with them all, nor is he able to obtain spare parts. The JZD has three tractors, only one of which works, and this has to be started by running it downhill, after which the other two must be towed until they are finally persuaded into action. Only one out of the three binders works.

5. Livestock: In August 1954, the Ministry of Agriculture ordered that the total of livestock belonging to each village - JZD and smallholders combined - must reach the 1938 level. Until this total is reached no beast may be killed or sold. In this village there are 50 cows less than in 1938, 20 percent fewer other cattle, and 25 percent fewer pigs. Smallholders have the same total of animals as in 1938, but in spite of this they may not sell any except between themselves or to the JZD. Thus the JZD chairman bought a good dairy cow, put it into his own stall (each JZD member may keep one cow for himself), and put his own cow, a poor beast, into the JZD cowshed. The only way a smallholder may obtain permission to sell a beast for slaughter is to maim it so that the veterinarian has to certify it for the slaughter house. Only rarely may beasts be sold to another village and then only with the permission of the agricultural section of the QNV.
6. Spring work: All spring work was delayed a month by bad weather. Work could only begin on 15 April, and the JZD probably would not be able to complete its spring work.

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